

HEALTH

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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF CHESHAM

REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
for the year 1953



T. P. EVANS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHAM

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Medical Officer of Health



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Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Chesham, Bucks.

June, 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Chesham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1953.

As will be seen from the pages dealing with INFECTIOUS DISEASES there was no case of diphtheria notified to me during the year, thereby making 1953 the ninth year in succession during which no case of diphtheria has been notified within the Council's area. This freedom from diphtheria is very satisfactory, but the elimination of the disease is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunization in the child population. This level is secured by the immunization of not less than 75 per cent of babies before their first birthday. Unhappily, it is estimated that only 27 per cent of the number of babies reaching the age of one year in 1953, within the Council's area, were immunised during the year. This decline in the immunization rate is disturbing.

There were no cases of poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis). In the last eight years only seven cases have been notified in the District.

Measles on the other hand showed an incidence of 125 cases. The graph on page (6) shows the 'every-other-year' incidence of epidemic measles. With such a large number of cases, it is to be expected that unusual complications occur.

Of the other acute infections, their numbers were low and call for no special comment.

The services comprised under the term environmental hygiene, such as water supplies, sewage and sewage disposal, housing and pest control have worked adequately and safely within the Council's area during the year under review.

It is again my pleasing duty to thank my colleagues and other Officers of the Council for their co-operation during the year. Particularly would I thank Mr. L.D. Saturley, the Council's Chief Sanitary Inspector, for his valuable assistance, and finally Mr. Chairman and Councillors I wish to thank you for your active interest in the work of the Department throughout the year.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

T.P.EVANS.

Medical Officer of Health.

S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health

T.P.Evans, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector

L.D.Saturley, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., A.I.Hsg.

Additional Sanitary Inspector

A.P.Wells, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Assistant Rodent Officer

J.G. Dobson

Clerk

J.C. How (Appointed 20.1.53.)

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A. GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS1. GENERAL STATISTICS

Population, Census 1951	11,428
Population (estimated mid year 1953)	11,460
Area (acres) of District	3,489
Number of inhabited dwellings (per Rate Book 31/3/54)	3,831
Rateable Value of Area (31.12.53)	£82,270
Product of Penny Rate (1953/54)	£324

The Urban District of Chesham was extended by the Bucks Review Order of 1934 from an acreage of 1,357 to the present acreage of 3,489. The rateable value on 1st April 1920 was £46,915, on the 1st April 1934 it was £56,528 whilst on 31st December 1952 it was £82,270.

The population of Chesham in 1921 was 8,534; in 1931 8,809; and the Registrar-General's estimate for 1953 was 11,460.

The product of a penny rate has increased from £216 for the financial year 1934-35 to £324 for the financial year 1953/54.

2. VITAL STATISTICSBirths

(a) Notified Live Births	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	75	72	147
Illegitimate	3	6	9
(b) Notified Still Births			
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

	<u>Chesham</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	13.6	15.5
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	12.7	22.4

Infant and Maternal Mortality

(a) Deaths from puerperal causes	Nil		
(b) Deaths of Infants under one year of age	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
(c) Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Death Rates of Infants under 1 year of age :-

Legitimate per 1,000 legitimate live births	.7
All infants per 1,000 registered live births	-
All infants per 1,000 live births:	
England and Wales	26.8

All Deaths

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	10.9
Death Rate, England and Wales	11.4
Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 population	9.6

Note

The corrected Death Rate is obtained when the crude rate has been adjusted to make allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales as a whole. The adjustment is made by multiplying the crude rate by the area comparability factor, the appropriate factor for the district being .88. The corrected rate is comparable with the crude rate for England and Wales, and the corresponding adjusted rate for any other area.

Causes of Death

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	2	4
2. Malignant neoplasms	9	9	18
3. Diabetes	1	-	1
4. Vascular lesions of nervous system	13	12	25
5. Coronary disease, angina	7	6	13
6. Hypertension with heart disease	-	1	1
7. Other heart disease	6	8	14
8. Other circulatory disease	5	5	10
9. Influenza	-	2	2
10. Pneumonia	5	3	8
11. Bronchitis	5	3	8
12. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	-	3
13. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	3	3
14. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
15. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	3	8
16. Accidents other than motor vehicle accidents	2	1	3
17. Suicide	1	1	2
<u>Total all causes</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>125</u>

Deaths of Chesham residents during 1953, arranged in age groups

<u>Age</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 4 wks.	-	-	-
1 month to 1 year	-	-	-
Total under one year	-	-	-
1 - 4	2	-	2
5 - 9	-	1	1
10 - 14	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	-
25 - 34	-	-	-
35 - 44	4	4	8
45 - 54	5	2	7
55 - 64	10	5	15
65 - 74	18	12	30
75 plus	26	36	62
Total all ages	65	60	125

District	Popu- lation Census 1951	Registrar-Gen. Estimated Population Mid-1953	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Maternal Mort- ality per 1,000 live & still-births
URBAN								
Aylesbury	21,054	21,100	17.8 {376}	9.1 {193}	-	37.2 {14}	29.3 {11}	-
Beaconsfield	7,909	8,240	13.8 {114}	11.3 {93}	0.12	26.3 {3}	-	-
Bletchley	10,916	11,410	19.2 {219}	7.2 {82}	-	13.7 {3}	4.6 {1}	-
Buckingham	3,944	4,027	15.4 {62}	8.4 {34}	-	-	-	-
Chesham	11,428	11,460	13.6 {156}	10.9 {125}	0.35	-	-	-
Eton	3,250	4,723	15.0 {71}	5.7 {27}	-	14.1 {1}	14.1 {1}	-
High Wycombe	40,692	41,890	15.5 {650}	9.1 {382}	0.17	12.3 {8}	6.2 {4}	1.49
Linslade	3,269	3,359	14.0 {47}	10.1 {34}	-	-	-	-
Marlow	6,480	6,533	18.4 {120}	9.3 {61}	0.31	8.3 {1}	8.3 {1}	-
Newport Pagnell	4,366	4,268	11.9 {51}	30.9 {132}	-	58.8 {3}	39.2 {2}	-
Slough	66,439	66,950	14.2 {951}	7.7 {514}	0.09	23.1 {22}	13.7 {13}	-
Wolverton	13,421	13,540	12.0 {162}	12.9 {175}	-	6.2 {1}	-	-
TOTAL URBAN	193,168	197,500	15.1 {2979}	9.4 {1852}	0.10 {20}	18.8 {56}	11.1 {33}	0.33 {1}
RURAL								
Amersham	41,432	43,090	13.9 {598}	9.5 {409}	0.02	11.7 {7}	3.3 {2}	-
Aylesbury	29,543	31,520	13.8 {436}	10.9 {342}	0.13	25.2 {11}	20.6 {9}	-
Buckingham	9,422	10,180	13.8 {140}	6.8 {69}	0.20	7.1 {1}	-	-
Eton	43,120	44,170	15.8 {698}	9.4 {414}	0.11	33.0 {23}	24.4 {17}	-
Newport Pagnell	13,817	14,050	13.5 {189}	10.2 {143}	0.28	15.9 {3}	15.9 {3}	-
Wing	9,042	9,030	16.9 {153}	11.0 {99}	0.11	32.7 {5}	19.6 {3}	-
Winslow	7,268	7,550	14.6 {110}	17.6 {133}	-	-	-	-
Wycombe	39,352	41,110	15.6 {643}	9.3 {383}	-	20.2 {13}	10.9 {7}	1.54
TOTAL RURAL	192,996	200,700	14.8 {2967}	9.9 {1992}	0.08 {17}	21.2 {63}	13.8 {41}	0.33 {1}
TOTAL COUNTY	386,164	398,200	14.9 {5946}	9.7 {3844}	0.09 {37}	20.0 {119}	12.4 {74}	0.33 {2}
ENGLAND & WALES			15.5	11.4	0.20	26.8	-	0.76

NOTE :- In view of the small numbers on which some of the rates quoted are based, the actual numbers are given in parenthesis for the purpose of clearer comparison.

B. HEALTH SERVICES

1. HOSPITAL SERVICES

Chesham Urban District is situated in the Oxford Regional Hospital Area. The Regional Hospital Board has delegated the duty of management of the local hospitals to the High Wycombe and District Management Committee which in turn has delegated day-to-day administration to two House Committees. One House Committee is responsible for three hospitals viz., the Amersham General Hospital, the Chesham (Cottage) Hospital and the Stone Maternity Hospital, Chalfont St. Giles. The other is responsible for the Chalfont and Gerrards Cross Hospital, Chalfont St. Peter.

Hospitals available for the District are as follows:-

Tuberculosis	-	Berks & Bucks Joint Sanatorium, Peppard Common.
General	-	Chesham Cottage Hospital
"	-	Amersham General Hospital
"	-	Royal Bucks County Hospital, Aylesbury
"	-	War Memorial Hospital, High Wycombe
"	-	Chalfont St. Peter Cottage Hospital.

Infectious Diseases-Aylesbury Isolation Hospital

2. LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Public Health Laboratory Service is concerned with Bacteriology and Epidemiology in relation to the diagnosis, prevention and control of infectious disease.

Public Health Laboratories are situated at Walton Street, Oxford, and at Town Hall, Luton, and in general undertake free of charge the bacteriological examination of such specimens as sputum, nose and throat swabs, faeces, urine, blood, etc. The bacteriological examination of samples of water, milk and ice-cream is carried out at the Public Health Laboratories, Luton.

The chemical examination of water is undertaken by the Public Analyst, Southwark Borough Council.

3. AMBULANCE SERVICES

Since the operation of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council is responsible for the provision of ambulance facilities of all kinds. The Bucks County Council provides an ambulance service for non-infectious cases for the whole of the County through the agency of the Order of St. John and the British Red Cross Society. Two St. John's ambulances are stationed in Chesham.

Ambulances for the removal of infectious cases are stationed at Aylesbury and Slough.

4. NURSING IN THE HOME

This service is now provided by Miss M.E. Marston, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., and Miss G.M. Wildish, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., from 305 Berkhamsted Road, Chesham. The nursing sisters hold an ante-natal clinic at this address.

5. CLINICS

There has been no major change in the dual services provided at the Germain Street Clinic, viz. a Minor Ailments Clinic and a Specialised Service Clinic.

The Venereal Diseases Scheme of the Bucks County Council has established clinics at King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor, and at High Wycombe.

C. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 to 1951

These Acts have been described as the final step in the break-up of the old Poor Law, the repeal of which was widely welcomed as it had, in the main, outlived its usefulness. The duties imposed by the Poor Law were transferred in many instances to Local Authorities, and certain duties, namely those under Sections 47 and 50 of the above Acts became the responsibilities of District Councils.

Section 47.

The provisions of this Section have for their purpose the securing of the necessary care and attention for persons who

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions and
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

The Public Health Committee can, on receipt of a report from the Medical Officer of Health, authorise application to a Magistrates' Court for the person's removal to hospital or other suitable place, and for his detention for a period not exceeding three months.

Under the provisions of the National Assistance (Amendment) Act of 1951, the Local Authority can, where urgent removal is considered necessary, authorise the Medical Officer of Health to take immediate action seeking a Magistrates' Order to detain the person in suitable premises for a period not exceeding three weeks.

No cases requiring action under these provisions were brought to the notice of the Public Health Department during the year.

Section 50

Under this Section of the above Acts, the duty is placed upon the Councils of County Boroughs and County Districts to arrange for the burial or cremation of any person who has died or been found dead in their area. This duty is exercisable only when it appears to the Council that no other suitable arrangements have been or are being made.

During the year no occasion for the exercise of this duty has arisen.

D. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

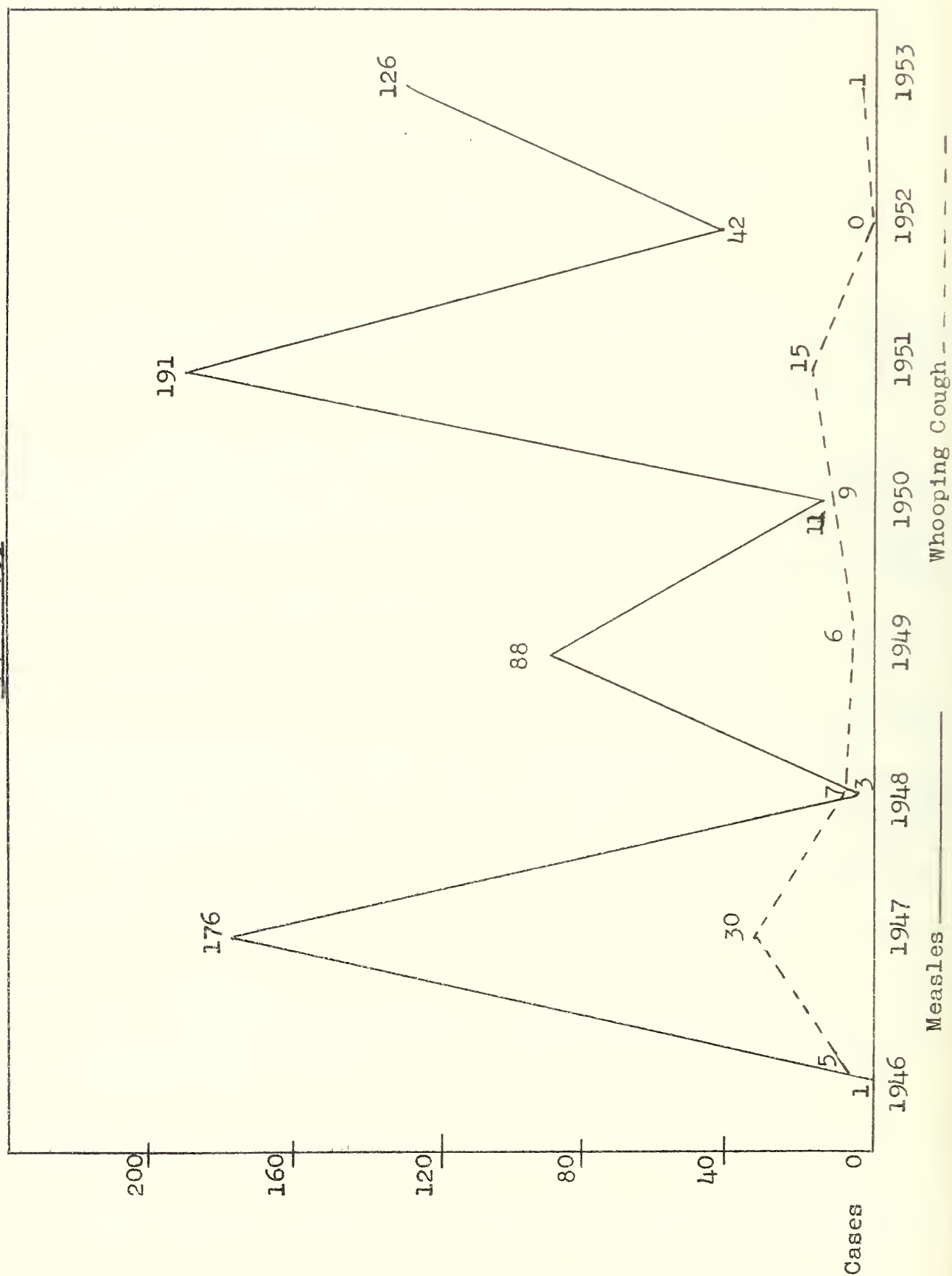
There were 130 cases of Infectious Disease notified as follows:-

Disease	Cases Notified	Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	3	-	-
Measles	126	1	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	-

There were also 11 primary notifications of tuberculosis.

NOTIFICATIONS OF MEASLES & WHOOPING COUGH

1946 - 1953



The following table shows the new cases of tuberculosis and the deaths from the disease, arranged in age groups.

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
45 - 55	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 - 65	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
65 - 75	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Over 75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	7	1	2	1	2	2	-	-

2. POLIOMYELITIS

In my Annual Report for 1952, in discussing this disease I made two suggestions; (1) that the outcome of the disease was not so generally or well understood as it might be and (2) that there was a secure basis for renewed hope of discovering an effective and safe protective vaccine against the disease.

It is probably true that more advances have been made in the understanding of poliomyelitis during the past decade than during the past half century, but its increasing incidence has provoked amongst the population an interest in the disease amounting to panic. The interest in this disease is not solely, or even mainly, because of the number of deaths caused by the disease, for these have been comparatively slight. Only 2,577 persons were killed by poliomyelitis in England and Wales in the five years from 1947 to 1951, an average of 500 per year. This modest total is overwhelmingly surpassed by other diseases such as cancer, tuberculosis, peptic ulcer and violence which are meekly accepted by the public as necessary evils. It is, however, pertinently pointed out that the panic due to poliomyelitis is related not so much to the death-rate as to the fact that it disables far more persons than it kills; that it frequently selects the school child and the young adult as its victims, and that the degree of paralysis remaining in its victims represents an almost permanent and lasting memorial of all its dangers and hazards. Death is silent and soon forgotten; the paralytic child is a never-ending warning to those who pass by.

Reports from Australia say that injections have been given to protect against poliomyelitis on entering an epidemic area. This may have caused a wide-spread impression that there is now some effective method of active immunization against the disease. It is understood, however, that the material-gamma globulin-used was calculated to afford passive protection for the limited period of a visit to the epidemic area. In these very special circumstances no one will question the wisdom of taking this precaution, even though absolute proof of its efficacy does not exist. In a disease some of whose features are rather mysterious, it is not surprising that the extensive use of gamma globulin in the United States has failed to give this proof. Nevertheless experimental, as distinct from clinical, test is reassuring.

Active immunization presents formidable difficulties, perhaps greater than those for any other infectious disease. Nevertheless, in spite of the difficulties, it is confidently expected that a live attenuated and harmless vaccine for immunization will be produced within the next few years. Indeed, the first large scale trial of such a vaccine is now being undertaken in America. The children are between the ages of 6 and 9 years, and the aim is to inoculate 5,000 children. It is, however, only right to point out that until active immunization is available to the general public the masses will be dependant on receiving repeated small doses of infection for the acquisition of collective immunity. Indeed, even if and when we have a reliable vaccine and a co-operative public, we may still have to rely on repeated small doses of the virus from infected persons to maintain the immunity started by the vaccine.

3. DIPHTHERIA

Diphtheria Immunization								
Age Groups	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total
Primary Immunization	48	70	4	1	5	6	1	135
Re- Immunization	-	-	-	-	12	68	1	81

This is the ninth successive year during which no case of diphtheria has been notified to me from within the Council's area. The incidence of diphtheria in the United Kingdom as a whole, continues to fall. This trend is shown by the number of deaths during the past 50 years. In 1901 the number of deaths in the U.K. was 9,761; in 1940 the number was 2,466, whilst in 1953 the number was reduced to 24.

The elimination of the disease is, however, conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunization against diphtheria in the child population, and it is generally agreed that this level is assured when not less than 75 per cent of the babies are immunized before their first birthday. From the year by year record of the number of immunizations carried out within the Council's area, it is estimated that only about 27 per cent of babies were immunized before their first birthday before their first birthday during 1953. Everyone will agree that this decline in the local immunization rate is disturbing but it is even more so when it is realised that this local decline follows the national decline in immunization. In the United Kingdom as a whole, only 28 per cent of babies reaching the age of one year in 1951 were immunized, in 1952 the figure was 31 per cent and in the first half of 1953, it was 31.5 per cent, that is, less than half the numbers considered necessary to maintain an adequate level of immunization for the elimination of the disease.

The reason for stressing this need for immunization is found in the experience of a Northern City where during the past four years 340 children contracted diphtheria, and of the 340, 11 died. It may, of course, with reason be pointed out that only 3 in a hundred cases proved fatal, which, for a serious disease like diphtheria is not sensational. Such a statement, however, is quite beside the point. For today, diphtheria is a preventable disease, and the significant thing is that not one of the unfortunate 11 had been immunized against diphtheria.

It will be readily agreed that large scale immunization against diphtheria has, in the country as a whole, reduced deaths from the disease to insignificant figures. Unfortunately there appears to be a growing tendency amongst mothers to believe that since the disease now causes so few deaths there is less need to have their children immunized. Such apathy is fatal.

E. MILK

1. Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 & 1953.
Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 & 1950
Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk)
Regulations, 1949, 1950 and 1953.

Since the coming into operation of the above-mentioned Regulations on the 1st October, 1949, the duties of Local Authorities have been concerned mainly with the enforcement of provisions relating to the distribution of milk and to its handling and treatment at premises other than dairy farms. The provisions with regard to infection of milk with diseases communicable to man are also the responsibility of Local Authorities.

There are eleven producers of milk within the Council's area and in September 1953 nine of these producers had licensed "Tuberculin Tested" herds. All but one dispose of their milk in bulk, either to the local firm of Chesham Dairies, Limited, or to the Express Dairy Company (London) Limited.

The one producer/retailer operates a retail round in the Chesham area; although possessing a licensed T.T. herd he does not use the designation in relation to milk sold.

Number of Registered Milk Distributors	4
" " " Premises used as Dairies (not being dairy farms)	1

The number and type of licenses granted by this Authority under the Regulations are given below:-

Dealer's Licence authorising the use of special designation "Tuberculin Tested"	2
Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised"	2
Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested"	2
Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the special designation "Sterilised"	1

During the year nine samples of bottled milk in respect of which the special designation "Pasteurised" was in use were collected from licensed distributors in the area and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. All samples passed the prescribed tests for "Pasteurised" Milk.

2. Food and Drugs Acts

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 - Article 20

Whilst no action under Article 20 of the Regulations was necessary during the year the opportunity is taken of reviewing the powers for dealing with infected milk.

Under Article 20 of the Regulations, a Medical Officer of Health who is satisfied that any person is suffering from disease caused by the consumption of milk, or if he has reasonable grounds for suspecting that a person is so suffering, or that the milk is infected with an organism capable of causing disease in man, may serve a notice prohibiting the sale of such milk unless it has been treated in such a way as to secure to his satisfaction that it may, with safety, be sold for human consumption. A dairy farmer, on whom such notice is served, is entitled to compensation for damages or loss by reason of the notice served.

The common causes of infected milk are the organisms of brucella and the organisms of tuberculosis. The organisms of brucella are the organisms which, in pregnant cattle, give rise to abortion, "slipped calf" or a dead calf.

The staff of the Chief Inspector of the County Council are assiduous in the performance of their duties in the taking of samples in this area.

Estimates of the prevalence of infection of milk by the organisms of brucella in Great Britain at the present time are complicated by widespread vaccination with Strain 19 vaccine. Before governmental measures were taken, it was shown that because of brucella, about 9.7 per cent pregnancies in cattle terminated abnormally (about 5.4 per cent in abortion, and another 4.3 per cent with a dead calf.) In human beings brucellosis is not a notifiable disease, and realistic estimates are difficult. There is, however, reason to believe throughout the country there are at least 500 cases per annum.

Milk which is infected or suspected to be infected with brucella presents a difficult problem. A cow excreting milk infected by brucella cannot be detected clinically, and further, the period of excreting may be quite short - about two months, whilst the bacteriological test necessary to demonstrate the presence of brucella in milk takes six weeks. Thus it might quite well be that during the period required for the bacteriological examination the cow may have ceased to excrete brucella in the milk. These difficulties are added to when it is realised that there is no quick and reliable test for the presence of the organism.

Experience in this district has shown that most farmers are well aware of the provisions of these Regulations and it is invariably found that the milk is not sold "raw" to the public, but is rendered safe for human consumption by heat-treatment, either by the H.T.S.T. process or pasteurization. The question of compensation has not arisen in this connection, during the year under review.

3. Tuberculosis Order 1938

I understand that in all, 1518 samples of milk were taken for investigation, from herds throughout the county by the staff of the Chief Inspector of the Bucks County Council during the year. This sampling involved milk from about 20,000 cows.

Twenty seven samples were found to be tuberculous. It is worthy of note that in none of the schools, children's homes, hostels, or nurseries run by the County Council, was there found a sample of infected milk; and that these institutions, schools, etc. are all supplied either with T.T. or pasteurised milk.

No raw milk can be regarded as safe, not even that from cattle which are attested free from tuberculosis under the tuberculin-testing scheme. For, even such designated milk as tuberculin-tested milk may contain the organism of disease other than tuberculosis, e.g. scarlet fever. When cattle within an attested herd are found to be tuberculous, because there is no other way of dealing with them they find their way into a non-attested herd, and thereby increase the risk of tuberculosis in raw undesignated milk.

4. Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act 1950
Section 23 - Specification of Areas.

The Minister of Food is empowered under this Section to make Orders specifying areas within which all milk sold by retail must conform to the requirements of the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurized and Sterilized Milk) Regulations, 1949 and 1950 and the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949 and 1950.

This means that within such specified areas milk of special designation only (that is Pasteurized, Sterilized or Tuberculin-tested milk, or until September 30th, 1954, Accredited Milk from a single herd) may be sold.

Four such Orders specifying areas in England and Wales have already been made by the Minister, and on 30th November, 1953, a new and further Order became operative. This new Order included the following areas:-

- (1) Newcastle-on-Tyne and District
- (2) South Essex
- (3) Reading and District
- (4) Plymouth and South Devon.

It is noticed that under Section (3), Reading & District, certain areas in the South East portion of Bucks are included, e.g. the Borough of Slough, the Urban Districts of BEACONSFIELD, ETON and MARLOW. It is very interesting to note that taking into account the areas that have already been specified, the milk supplies of 48 per cent of the population of England and Wales will, when specifications of the four new areas are taken into account, consist of specially designated milk. It is understood that other areas in Bucks are being surveyed at present.

F. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

Main water in the Chesham Urban District is supplied by the Council's Undertaking and the Undertaking of the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company and amalgamated companies. The Council's Undertaking supplies 84% of the total dwellings within the District in that part which may be conveniently described as the area of the Urban District prior to the extension of boundaries in 1934.

During the year under review the Undertakings have supplied main water that has been satisfactory both in regard to quantity and quality.

There remain within the Urban District only 36 dwellings (including three caravans) dependent upon a well supply of water. The quality of the well water is known to be generally satisfactory although in a few instances there has been evidence of intermittent contamination. In these cases householders have been advised to boil all water before use for domestic purposes. Advice concerning overhaul of pumps or cleansing of polluted wells has also been given.

Treatment and Plumbo-Solvency of Water

The main supplies receive no treatment other than chlorination and the waters are not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

Distribution

During the year a water main was laid by Chesham Council's Water Undertaking in Beechcroft Road to supply a new estate under construction. The main was 766 yards in length (247 yards - 3", 519 yards - 4").

Sampling of Public Water Supplies

Samples of water as distributed from piped supplies have been taken throughout the year and submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical and bacteriological examination. The following table shows the number of samples taken with the results of examinations:-

Name of water Undertaking	Samples for Bacteriological Examination		Samples for Chemical Analysis	
	Date	Result	Date	Result
Urban District Council of Chesham	4. 2.53	Satisfactory	4. 2.53	Satisfactory
	24. 3.53	"	24. 2.53	"
	17. 6.53	"	17. 6.53	"
	25. 9.53	"	25. 9.53	"
	17.11.53	"	17.11.53	"
Amersham & Beaconsfield Supply	24. 3.53	Satisfactory	24. 3.53	Satisfactory
	4. 7.53	"	4. 7.53	"
	17.11.53	"	17.11.53	"
Berkhamsted Supply	4. 2.53	Satisfactory	4. 2.53	Satisfactory
	17. 6.53	"	17. 6.53	"
	25. 9.53	"	25. 9.53	"
Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Supply	4. 7.53	Satisfactory	4.7.53	Satisfactory

Chemical Analysis and Bacteriological Examination

The following are copies of the Analyst's reports on the examination of four recent samples:-

No. W/36/53	5 Lye Green Cotts. Chesham	(Berkhamsted Supply)
No. W/39/53	58 Bois Moor Road, Chesham	(Amersham & Beaconsfield)
No. W/40/53	Vale Cottages, Chesham	(Rickmansworth & Uxbridge)
No. W/41/53	Council Offices, Chesham	(Chesham U.D.Council)

Chemical Analysis

	W/36/53	W/39/53	W/40/53	W/41/53
Appearance	All samples clear and colourless			
Reaction (pH)	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.0
	Parts per million			
Free Chlorine	0.05	nil	nil	nil
Total Solids	350	346	327	314
Chlorine in Chlorides	15.5	14.0	12.5	12.5
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.002	nil	nil	nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.004	0.0044	0.003	0.007
Nitrate Nitrogen	4.0	2.0	4.0	3.5
Nitrite Nitrogen	nil	nil	nil	nil
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate (3 hrs. @ 98° F.)	0.08	0.05	0.08	0.13
Hardness, Temporary	222	270	240	230
Permanent	58	52	30	30
Total	280	322	270	260
Metals - Lead, Copper	Not found in any sample			
Zinc				

Bacteriological Examination

Colonies on agar in				
48 hrs @ 37° C per m.	1	1	1	1
Colonies on agar in				
72 hrs @ 20° C per m.	1	0	1	1
Coliform bacilli	Not found in 100 ml.			

Opinion - All Samples

From these results I am of opinion that the water is of high chemical and bacteriological purity and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Number of dwellings and estimated population
supplied from public water mains

	Internal piped supply		External(stand pipes,etc)		
	No.of houses	Est.pop.	No.of houses	No.of Caravans	Est.pop.
Chesham Urban District Council Supply	3125	9063	89	23	175
Other Water Undertakings	533	1987	34	7	123
TOTALS	3658	11050	123	30	298

Number of dwellings supplied from wells 36 (including 3 caravans)

2. PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

During the past year a series of samples were taken of the water at the Council's Swimming Bath and the table of results is set out below:-

<u>Source (Pump)</u>		<u>Filled Bath</u>	
17/6/53	Unsatisfactory		
25/6/53	"	25/6/53	Unsatisfactory
2/7/53	Satisfactory	2/7/53	Satisfactory
7/7/53	"	7/7/53	"
9/7/53	Unsatisfactory	9/7/53	"
16/7/53	"	16/7/53	"
3/9/53	"	3/9/53	Unsatisfactory
16/9/53	"	16/9/53	Satisfactory
2 Satisfactory		5 Satisfactory	
6 Unsatisfactory		2 Unsatisfactory	

It will be observed that the earlier samples from both the pump and the bath were unsatisfactory and arrangements were made for an additional amount of chlorine to be added to the bath water. Subsequent tests showed that whenever free chlorine was maintained between 0.2 and 0.5 p.p.m. at the time of sampling subsequent bacteriological reports indicated that the water was satisfactory for bathing purposes. The untreated water from the pump, however, is subject to intermittent contamination.

The Council have come to the conclusion that more satisfactory swimming bath facilities are needed in the town and are giving the matter their urgent attention.

In the meantime, expert advice has been obtained with a view to safeguarding the health of users of the existing bath.

3. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Only the outlying areas of the District remain unsewered, in areas where, due to the contours of the land, the necessary fall to the sewage farm would be difficult to obtain. The Council's cesspool emptying machine emptied 132 cesspools during 1953, 126 of these being in the Urban District, whilst the remainder were in adjoining areas.

The sewerage is on the separate system, the soil water sewer discharging at the Council's Sewage Disposal Plant in Latimer Road.

4. REFUSE DISPOSAL

All house refuse collected in the Urban District is disposed of by incineration at the Council's Incinerator Plant in Latimer Road, Chesham.

Salvage Return for 1953

	tons	cwt.	lbs.	£.	s.	d.
Scrap Iron	9	0	70	43	9	2
Scrap Lead		10	50	30	5	2
Scrap Brass & Copper			82	2	16	0
Bottles and Jars	4	16	56	11	10	9
Loose Tins	20	17	28	36	10	3
	35	5	62	£124	11	4

5. POST WAR HOUSING

During 1953 the Council rehoused 79 families, including 24 exchanges of tenancy.

Since 1946, Chesham Council have provided alternative housing accommodation for 690 families and the following details of the number of new dwellings erected in the post-war periods are of interest.

POST WAR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

YEAR	HOUSE TYPES & NUMBERS				ANNUAL COUNCIL TOTAL	HOUSES ERECTED BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE
	Temporary Bungalows	Houses	Flats	Old Peoples Bungalows		
1946	35				35	14
1947		14			14	17
1948		67			67	15
1949		87	28		115	24
1950		18	8		26	15
1951		33	8	8	49	11
1952			36		36	5
1953		22	12	5	39	31
TOTAL	35	241	92	13	381	132

G.

SANITARY INSPECTION1. SANITARY INSPECTORS' VISITS

Number of Houses inspected under Public Health Acts	148
Number of revisits to Houses under Public Health Acts	342
Number of Houses inspected under Housing Acts	5
Number of revisits to Houses under Housing Acts	30
Number of Houses inspected for vermin	8
Number of Rooms disinfested	13
Number of Revisits to verminous premises	4
Miscellaneous visits to houses	729
Houses recorded in Rapid Housing Survey	1447
Visits where infectious disease had occurred	6
Number of rooms disinfected	2
Visits to Slaughterhouse (Meat Inspection)	777
" Butchers' shops	25
" Fish shops	5
" Grocers' shops	71
" Ice-cream premises	58
" Food preparing places	22
" Restaurants	31
" Bakehouses and confectioners	8
" Dairies	2
" in connection with milk sampling	9
" to licensed premises	14
" Knacker's Yard	1
" and inspections of Factories	75
" Outworkers' premises	12
" in connection with water supply	95
Interviews	334
Miscellaneous visits	461

2. LIBRARY BOOKS

During the year, seven library books were withdrawn from houses where infectious disease had occurred and were disinfected before being returned to the librarian for re-circulation.

3. VERMINOUS PREMISES

During the year eight verminous premises were dealt with by the staff of the Public Health Department, involving the disinfestation of thirteen rooms. Treatment with D.D.T. and Pybuthrin preparations proved effective in each case.

In addition, in response to requests for help from occupiers, nests of wasps were destroyed at eight premises during the summer months.

4. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. STATUTORY NOTICES

The following is a statement of the Statutory Notices served and complied with during the year:--

Section of Act	Details	No. of Notices:			
		Outstanding on 1.1.53.	Served in 1953	Complied with in 1953	Outstanding on 31.12.53.
45	Defective sanitary accommodation	1	1	1	1
93	Abatement of nuisances	1	0	1	0

4. STATUTORY NOTICES (Cont.)

The work carried out by owners in complying with the above Statutory Notices is detailed below:

New water closets constructed	2
Plaster ceilings renewed	3
Damp walls remedied	2
Leaking roofs repaired	1
Decayed wooden dado renewed	1

5. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES

The following table shows the number of defects which have been dealt with by means of informal action during 1952:-

Abatement of Nuisances

Defect	Number of Defects			
	Outstanding on 1.1.53.	Reported in 1953	Remedied in 1953	Outstanding on 31.12.53
Dampness	25	33	26	32
Defective doors and windows	14	8	15	7
Defective roof surface water drainage	17	32	35	14
Defective sanitary accommodation	9	26	22	13
Defective floors, stairs, etc.	7	10	8	9
Defective dustbins	-	26	21	5
Defective plasterwork	7	4	7	4
Defective fireplaces	2	3	2	3
Leaking roofs	11	6	8	9
Defective and dangerous ceilings	2	2	-	4
Unsatisfactory yard paving & drainage	-	6	-	6
Defective drainage systems	1	9	6	4
Defective coppers	-	4	4	-
Choked drains	-	6	6	-
Overflowing cesspools	-	5	5	-
Miscellaneous	-	5	5	-
TOTALS	95	185	170	110

6. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. PROVISION OF DUSTBINS

In accordance with the provisions of Section 75(3) of the Act and following the procedure described in the Report for 1950, dustbins were provided by the Council at nine houses within the District during the year.

7. HOUSING

I. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

1.	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	153
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	372
2.	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Acts	5
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	30
3.	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	5
4.	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	148

II. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices:-

1.	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	30
----	---	----

III. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :-

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

1.	Number of dwellings-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	0
2.	Number of dwellings-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
	(a) by owners	0
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners.	0

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :-

1.	Number of dwellings-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	2
2.	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
	(a) by owners	3
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	0

III. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

C. Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | 3 |
| 2. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made (Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953) | 0 |
| 3. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | 2 |
| 4. Number of individual unfit houses in respect of which the Local Authority accepted undertakings either that the premises would be rendered fit for human habitation within a specified period, or that they would not be used for human habitation until rendered fit for that purpose. | 0 |

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | 0 |
| 2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | 0 |

Housing Act, 1936: Overcrowding

- | | |
|--|----|
| (a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | 14 |
| (b) Number of persons concerned in cases under (a) | 52 |
| (c) Number of cases of overcrowding in Council houses relieved during the year (included under (a)) | 4 |

8. RODENT CONTROLPrevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Following the success of a new method of rodent treatment in 1952, more than half the infestations occurring in 1953 were treated by this method. It is based on the use of a new rodenticide incorporating an anti-blood coagulant (dicoumarin, warfarin and derivatives). This substance does not induce bait shyness and no pre-baiting is needed. Amongst other advantages is the fact that the substance is painless in operation.

During the year the sewers received two maintenance treatments for rat infestations. The first was carried out in March when 56 man holes were dealt with and five complete takes observed. Forty-six manholes were baited during the second treatment in December, when seven complete takes were observed.

In addition, a 10% test of the remainder of the sewer manholes was undertaken, resulting in five fresh infestations being detected and treated.

Annual Report by Local Authorities to Ministry of Agriculture
& Fisheries

The Infestation Control Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries have decided that the Annual Report (which, hitherto, has covered the calendar year) should coincide with the claim year (1st April/31st March). This is in order to simplify the examination of claims received from local authorities towards their expenditure on rodent control.

The last report submitted, a copy of which is given below, therefore covers the fifteen month period from 1st January 1953 to 31st March 1954.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949
Report for 15 months Period ended 31st March 1954

	Type of Property				TOTAL (5)
	Local Authority (1)	Dwelling Houses (2)	Agric- ultural (3)	All other (including business premises) (4)	
I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District (Notes 1 & 2)	6	3606	45	541	4198
II. Number of properties inspected by Local Authority during 1952 as a result of (a) notification (b) survey or otherwise	(a) 2	70	-	21	93
	(b) 4	1758	15	104	1881
III. Number of properties inspected (See sect. II) found to be infested by rats (Notes 1, 2 & 3)	Major -	-	-	3	3
	Minor 4	162	1	28	195
IV. Number of properties inspected (See sect. II) found to be seriously infested by mice (Notes 1, 2 & 3)	-	12	-	9	21
V. Number of infested properties (see Sect. III & IV) treated by Local Authority (Notes I, II & III)	4	174	1	40	219
Number of "block" control Schemes carried out					
34					

NOTES

- 1 (a) With the exception of agricultural properties, a property means one which is entered separately in the Valuation Roll for the area
- (b) Only properties devoted to agricultural or horticultural production, in respect of which returns are made under the Agriculture Act, 1947, should be entered as agricultural properties.

- 2 (a) Council houses should be entered in Column (2)
 - (b) Premises used by the Local Authority for the purposes of trade should be entered in Column (4)
 - (c) Sewers should not be included.
 - (d) Combined dwelling and business premises, where occupied by the same person, should be regarded as business premises and should be entered in Column (4) Where the dwelling and business parts of the premises are in separate occupation, separate entries should be made in Columns (2) & (4)
- 3 For the purpose of completing Sections II, III, IV and V, each property should be entered once only in respect of inspections, infestations or treatments.

9. RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Two premises are registered under the Act, the activities carried on being the manufacture of soft toys in one case and the upholstery of furniture and bedding in the other.

10. PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

During the year one person has been licensed to keep a pet shop in the District. The Sanitary Inspectors have made periodical visits to the premises and have found that the conditions under which the animals are kept for sale are satisfactory.

11. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, Section 269 - Moveable Dwellings

During 1953, 31 persons were licensed under Section 269 of the Act to station moveable dwellings in the District. 23 of the caravans were stationed on the site managed by the Chesham Urban District Council on their land at Trapps Lane, Chesham, the remaining 8 being located on various individual sites throughout the District.

The Council's site which has been fully occupied since opening in 1951 contains standings for 23 caravans. A piped supply of main water is available and a communal sanitary block has been provided, containing water closets and washing facilities. A rental of 7/6d per week is charged for each caravan.

G.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD1. NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES BY TYPES

General Grocery and Green Grocery Shops	54
Butchers' Shops	13
Wet Fish Shops	3
Fish Frying Premises	4
Bakers	5
Confectionery	10
Restaurants	11
Food manufacturing premises	3
Dairies	1
Factory and Shop Canteens	5
School kitchens	1
Licensed Premises (public houses, hotels)	26
Food Warehouses	1
Slaughterhouses	1
	<hr/>
	138
	<hr/>

Note: Premises at which more than one type of business is carried on are counted once only.

2. REGISTRATION OF PREMISES USED FOR THE MANUFACTURE, STORAGE OR SALE OF FOOD UNDER SECTION 14 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

	Premises on Register 1952	Added to Register 1953	Removed from Register 1953	Total on Register 31.12.53
Sale and Storage of ice-cream	36	3	-	39
Manufacture of ice-cream	6	-	-	6
Manufacture of Preserved food	15	-	-	15
Fish-frying	5	-	-	5
TOTALS	62	3	-	65

Note: Of the six premises registered for manufacture of ice-cream, only two are now actually doing so.

3. FOOD HYGIENE

During the year, the Sanitary Inspectors made 236 visits to food premises. The number of cases in which unsatisfactory conditions were noted was relatively small and in the main proprietors willingly adopted suggestions made to them for the improvement of their premises. In particular, attention has been directed to the handling, storage and display of food, having regard to the provisions of the "Clean Food" Byelaws, operative in this District.

For example, in shops where unwrapped food is displayed on counters, exposed to the public, managements have been requested to provide suitable protective covers. Utensils in use often leave much to be desired and several proprietors have been persuaded to renew unsatisfactory equipment.

Whilst it is believed satisfactory progress is being made towards cleaner food in this district, there are no grounds for complacency, and plenty of room is still left for improvement.

4. MEAT INSPECTION

(a) Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouse

During 1953 the Ministry of Food continued to operate the slaughterhouse on the premises of the Chesham, Wycombe & Tring Co-operative Society Limited, High Street, Chesham. This slaughterhouse has for the past 14 years been the slaughtering centre for the supply of home-killed beef, veal and mutton for Chesham and the surrounding districts. This area has a population of over 50,000.

The Council's Sanitary Inspectors are responsible for the examinations of all meat and a system of 100% inspection is in operation. This work has involved 777 visits to the slaughterhouse during the past twelve months.

A table showing the numbers of carcasses inspected and condemned in 1953 is given below. The total number of animals killed has been maintained at the high level reached in previous years; the number of pigs showing a notable increase. The speedy dressing of the larger numbers of pig carcasses for which a plentiful supply of hot water is necessary has been made possible by the installation of a new gas-fired boiling pan (copper) in the slaughterhouse.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1986	149	639	4569	558
Number inspected	1986	149	639	4569	558
<u>All diseases except T.B.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	3	3	1	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned.	813	40	1	80	89
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	40.9%	28.8%	0.6%	1.8%	16.8%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	16	2	-	-	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	148	17	-	-	23
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B.	8.3%	12.8%	-	-	4.3%

As 1953 will be the last year during which the Slaughterhouse will be under the control of the Ministry of Food, the opportunity is taken of recording the work of the post-war period in summarised form. The table below shows the number of animals slaughtered in each year from 1946 to 1953 inclusive.

YEAR	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Total Beasts	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
1946	1171	271	1442	1250	3736	39
1947	1112	287	1399	1048	3304	19
1948	1116	197	1313	812	3078	11
1949	1080	264	1344	1025	3793	10
1950	1220	351	1571	1256	4008	27
1951	1776	401	2177	1393	3334	89
1952	1692	314	2006	1078	3879	59
1953	1986	149	2135	639	4569	558

(b) Incidence of Tuberculosis

During 1953 eighteen complete beef carcasses and offal were condemned from tuberculosis. Whilst this figure (for whole carcasses condemned) would appear a high one, the overall incidence of tuberculosis in cattle examined was only 8.6%, the lowest figure recorded in the last eight years.

The following table shows comparative figures for all animals inspected for the past eight years. A definite decline in the incidence of bovine tuberculosis is indicated by the low percentages of the last three years.

YEAR	Cattle (Excl.cows)		Cows		Calves		Pigs	
	No. of animals killed	%	No. of animals killed	%	No. of animals killed	%	No. of animals killed	%
1946	1171	9.0	271	22.1	1250	0.24	39	5.2
1947	1112	9.7	287	18.1	1048	-	19	0.52
1948	1116	12.3	197	20.3	812	-	11	-
1949	1080	11.5	264	26.9	1025	-	10	-
1950	1220	11.6	351	23.4	1256	0.3	27	14.8
1951	1776	8.6	401	18.25	1393	0.4	89	5.6
1952	1692	7.5	314	17.8	1078	0.09	59	3.4
1953	1986	8.2	149	12.7	639	-	558	4.3

(c) Cysticercus bovis

The routine post-mortem examination of cattle included a search for cysticercus bovis infestation, as recommended by the Ministry of Food in 1948. The detection of this condition is important in relation to meat inspection as the consumption of flesh containing viable cysts can give rise to a tapeworm infection in man. In 1953, 42 cases were discovered representing an incidence of 1.9 per cent in animals examined. The examination revealed only slight infestations and in no case was it necessary for the carcasses infected to be totally condemned. As a measure of safety, however, all carcasses and offal from affected animals, before being released for human consumption, were subjected to a period of cold storage to render the cysts harmless.

In an effort to trace the sources of infection, particulars of affected animals were sent to the Public Health Departments of the Authorities in whose areas the animals were last known to have been located, with a view to enquiries being made on the farms concerned. No success in tracing down human tapeworm carriers has, however, been reported. The chief difficulty met with in investigations appears to be the fact that the animals concerned have passed through the hands of various owners prior to slaughter.

(d) Methods and Criteria of Meat Inspection

There is no statutory authority for the system of meat inspection in use in this country. A reasonable degree of uniformity has, however, been attained since the issue in 1922 of Memo 62/Foods, a memorandum on a system of meat inspection recommended by the Minister of Health for adoption by Local Authorities and their officers. The procedure laid down in the memorandum has become standard practice.

In December, 1952, Local Authorities received from the Minister of Food a memorandum, cited as Memo 3/Meat, which the Minister recommended should be adopted in substitution for Memo 62/Foods. The revised memorandum on the methods and criteria of meat inspection is based upon the recommendation of the Inter-departmental Committee on Meat Inspection which published its report in 1951.

As suggested by the Minister, this Council directed that the memorandum should be adopted in its entirety from 1st February 1953.

Part I of the memorandum, which gives general guidance to Authorised Officers, occupiers of slaughterhouses and Slaughtermen contained some important new provisions concerning the admission to slaughterhouses of undressed and dressed carcasses. The examination and judgement of carcasses of animals which have been slaughtered on the farm for emergency reasons has always been rendered difficult by the lack of case history. The new provisions which require that such carcasses must be accompanied by a certificate from a veterinary surgeon stating the reason for slaughter and particulars of any drugs administered to the animal, were welcomed by all meat inspectors. As stated in Circular MF/14/52, which accompanied the Memorandum "the adoption of these provisions should greatly reduce the risks to public health caused by salmonella infections".

Part II (Ante mortem Inspection) recommends that all animals should be inspected before slaughter.

The provisions of Part III, dealing with Post Mortem Inspection are not materially different from the corresponding provisions of Memo 62/Foods, except that examination by laboratory methods is recommended where thought necessary.

Part IV recommending action to be taken where evidence of disease is found has been revised in accordance with current practice and nomenclature.

(e) Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

Number of Slaughtermen on Register at 31st December, 1952	13
Applications for Licences considered during 1953	-
Number of Slaughtermen removed from Register (no applications for renewal of Licences)	-
Number of Slaughtermen on Register at 31st December, 1953	13

5. ICE-CREAM

During the year frequent visits have been made to premises where ice-cream is manufactured or sold with a view to ensuring that the provisions of the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947 to 1952, are observed.

Ice-cream Sampling

Twenty two samples of ice-cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination, and the following table shows a summary of the results obtained.

	Samples Taken	Provisional Grading recommended by Ministry of Health			
		I	II	III	IV
Ice-cream manufactured in district	8	4	2	-	2
Ice-cream manufactured outside District	14	10	2	2	-
Totals	22	14	4	2	2

6. FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS

One case of food poisoning was notified during the year (Boy, aged 6 years). The causative organism was identified as *Salmonella typhi-murium* but investigations failed to reveal the source of infection or food involved.

7. CONDEMNED FOODSTUFFS

	Tons	Cwts.	lbs.
Beef	14	-	82
Mutton		4	102
Pork		19	49
Veal		1	21
Ham			37
Fish			45
Cheese			25
Sausages		1	57
Chocolate tea cakes - No. 128	15	8	82

27.
Tinned Goods

Milk	125	tins	
Fish	74	"	
Meat	110	"	
Fruit	336	"	
Vegetables	309	"	
Jam & Marmalade	1	"	
Sundry goods	9	"	or jars

Disposal of Condemned Foodstuffs

Condemned foodstuffs (other than meat) is collected from traders by the Surveyor's Department of the Council and destroyed by incineration at the Council's plant in Latimer Road, Chesham.

Prior to 1st August, 1953, all meat and offal unfit for human consumption was removed from the Slaughterhouse by a Contractor approved by the Ministry of Food. The material was used in the manufacture of Tallow, Greases, Animal Feeding Meals and Fertilisers, being sterilised in the process of manufacture.

From 1st August, 1953, revised arrangements have been in operation. Condemned materials from Ministry of Food controlled Slaughterhouses have been offered for sale by public auction at monthly intervals.

At first, the conditions attached to the sales did not provide adequate safeguards for public health, but following a number of urgent representations from national bodies, the Ministry of Food in December 1953 revised and strengthened the conditions of sale, incorporating clauses with a direct bearing upon the prevention of danger to public health.

The Manager of the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse at Chesham has since August 1953 kept this Department advised as to the buyers of condemned meat and offal.

The addresses of all buyers have been outside the District and their names and addresses have therefore been forwarded to the Public Health Department of the Local Authority in whose area they are situated.

All condemned meat and offal is stained green by the Slaughterhouse Manager in accordance with the provisions of the Livestock (Restrictions on Slaughtering) Order, 1947, before delivery to the buyers.

I.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

PREMISES	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	10	4	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities.	95	67	3	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworker's premises)	4	4	-	-
TOTAL	109	75	3	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	11	9	-	4	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	2	1	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork).	-	-	2	-	-
TOTAL	13	10	2	4	-

3. OUTWORK

During the year lists of outworkers have been received showing the names of nine persons engaged in the following classes of work.

Making of wearing apparel	1
Brush-making	8

There were three cases of default in sending lists of outworkers to the Council as required by Section 110 of the Factories Act, 1937. The firms giving the outwork were notified and requested to supply the necessary lists in February and August of each year.

4. CHESHAM INDUSTRIES

The following is a list of Factories, and Factories (No Mechanical Power) on the Register on the 31st December, 1953.

Factories with Power

Woodware and Joinery	14
Motor-vehicle repairs	10
Brushware	10
Boot Manufacture and Repairs	6
Light Engineering	9
Clothing and Textiles	3
Printers	3
Toy Manufacture	2
Plastic Moulding	2
Food Manufacture and Packing	9
Upholstery	2
Miscellaneous	25
	<hr/> 95
Building operations	4

Factories (No Mechanical Power)

Upholstery	1
Undertakers	1
Stone Mason	1
Blacksmith	2
Dressmaking	1
Cycle Repairs	1
Waste Merchant	1
Radio Engineer	1
Packing	1
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